

41. (Currently Amended) A communication network comprising a plurality of node devices, wherein ~~a first~~ each node device of said plurality of node devices comprises:

information of
a plurality of buffers for storing a signal received from each a respective
input channel of a plurality of input channels; and

of a plurality of output channels
a switching means for altering an output channel connected to each buffer of
said plurality of buffers in accordance with a predetermined pattern in order, ~~and~~

wherein, a first node device of said plurality of node devices further
comprises:

of the plurality of
a receiving means for receiving predetermined information output from
another node device; and

the
a control means for controlling in order to deviate a timing when a
~~switching means of an adjacent node device connects a first buffer from among said~~
~~plurality of buffers of an adjacent node device is connected to~~ and a first output channel
~~from among said plurality of output channels by said switching means of the adjacent node~~
device, ~~from a~~ *the* timing when ~~said switching means of the first node device connects~~ *the* a first
buffer ~~from among said plurality of buffers of the first node device is connected to~~ *the* and a
first output channel from among said plurality of output channels by said switching means
of the first node device, in accordance with the predetermined information received by said
receiving means output from another node device.

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43. (Currently Amended) The communication network according to claim 41, wherein said predetermined ^{Pattern} information is ^{the} a pattern wherein ^{said} each buffer of said plurality of buffers is connected to a different output channel ~~a signal input from one input channel is not simultaneously output to a plurality of output channels.~~ SH

44. (Previously Amended) The communication network according to claim 41, wherein said predetermined information is communicated by a control packet.

45. (Previously Amended) The communication network according to claim 41, wherein said predetermined information is communicated by a data packet for communicating data.

5 46. (Currently Amended) A node device, comprising:
a plurality of buffers for storing ^{information of} a signal received from each a respective input channel of a plurality of input channels; SH

CM
a switching means for altering an output channel connected to each buffer of said plurality of buffers in accordance with a predetermined pattern in order; and

a receiving means for receiving predetermined information output from another node device; and

a control means for controlling in order to deviate a timing ~~between~~ ^{the} when ~~a~~ first buffer from among ^a a plurality of buffers of an adjacent node device is connected to a first output channel from among ^{the a} a plurality of output channels of the adjacent node device SH

SH ^{the} by ~~a~~ switching means of ~~an~~ ^{the} adjacent node device ~~connects a first buffer and a first~~
output channel of the adjacent node device, from ^{the} ~~a~~ timing when said switching means of SH
the node device itself connects ^{the} ~~a~~ first buffer from among said plurality of buffers of the SH
node device itself is connected to ^{the} ~~and a~~ first output channel from among said plurality of SH
output channels of the node device itself by said switching means of the node device itself,
in accordance with the predetermined information received by said receiving means output
from another node device.

C4 48. (Currently Amended) The node device according to claim 46, wherein SH
said predetermined pattern information is ^{the} ~~a~~ pattern wherein ^{said} each buffer of said plurality of SH
buffers of the node device itself is connected to a different ^{one of a plurality of} ~~a signal input from one input~~ SH
channel is not simultaneously output to a plurality of output channel channels.

49. (Previously Amended) The node device according to claim 46, wherein
said predetermined information is communicated by a control packet.

50. (Previously Amended) The node device according to claim 46, wherein
said predetermined information is communicated by a data packet for communicating data.

9 51. (Currently Amended) A communication control method for a
communication network comprising a plurality of node devices each having a plurality of
^{information of} buffers for storing ^a ~~a~~ signal received from each a respective input channel of a plurality of SH

input channels and each having a switching means for altering an output channel ^{of a plurality of output channels} connected ^{SH}

to each buffer of said plurality of buffers in accordance with a predetermined pattern, in

order, wherein a first node device of the plurality of node devices performs the method

comprising the steps of:

^{SH} a receiving process for receiving predetermined information output from
another node device; and ^{of the plurality of}

a communication process for communicating predetermined information
among the plurality of node devices; and

a control process for controlling in order to deviate a timing when the
switching means of adjacent node devices from among the plurality of node devices
connects a respective a first buffer from among said plurality of buffers of an adjacent node
device is connected to and a first output channel from among said plurality of output
channels of the adjacent node device by said switching means of the adjacent node device,

^{SH} from a timing when a first buffer from among said plurality of buffers of the first node
^{SH} device is connected to a first output channel from among said plurality of output channels
of the first node device by said switching means of the first node device, in accordance
with the predetermined information received by said receiving process.

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32. (Currently Amended) A control method for a first node device having a
^{information of}
plurality of buffers for storing a signal received from each a respective input channel of a ^{SH}
plurality of input channels and having of the node device and a switching means for
altering that alters an output channel connected to connecting each buffer of said plurality

of buffers in accordance with a predetermined pattern, in order, the method comprising the steps of:

a receiving process for receiving predetermined information output from another node device; and

a control process for controlling in order to deviate a timing when a first buffer from among a plurality of buffers ^{the} ~~switching means~~ of an adjacent node device is connected to ~~connects a first buffer and a first output channel from among a plurality of~~ output channels of the adjacent node device ^{the} ~~by a~~ of the adjacent node device, ~~from a timing~~ when the switching means of the adjacent node device, ^{the} ~~from a~~ timing when ~~itself connects~~ a first buffer ^{the} ~~from among said plurality of buffers of the first node device is connected to~~ and a first output channel ^{the} ~~from among said plurality of output channels of the first node~~ device by said switching means of the first node device, in accordance with the predetermined information received by said ~~in the~~ receiving process.